Pebbles On My Doorstep

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Pebbles On My Doorstep

by SpotLightBooks

Summary

Izuku becomes the target of a lustful monster.

Notes

Warning: Please do not read if you are underage and/or uncomfortable with any or all of the tags. Thank you.

Chapter 1

Izuku Midoriya never thought much of himself. He was smart and obedient but other than that he really didn't have much to offer. While his friends got married and left town for bigger and better things Izuku stayed behind in the town with an unusual name to help his mother. She wasn't getting any younger and he feared something bad would happen to her in his absence so he quickly forgot about college and getting married. There wasn't anything he wanted to do in particular and no one had fancied him enough, and vice versa, to think about dating and getting hitched.

His life was simple. He liked the daily routines he and his mother completed. Nothing changed and nothing bad ever happened. People were kind and safe in the small town. As long as his mother was happy and healthy then Izuku didn't feel like he was missing out on anything in life.

"Izuku," His mother calls out to him one day.

He notices the concern in her voice and quickly responds, running to the front door and finding her staring at a pile of stones on their welcome mat. The stones are pretty, he notes, and there are so many in different shapes and colors. Pastel blues, pinks, orange, and purple. They sparkle in the sunlight and Izuku swears he feels something shift in the air around them.

"Get inside."

Izuku flinches at the sharpness in his mother's voice. He doesn't hesitate, however, and does as he's told. He watches her toss each and every stone in a garbage bag and head to the river just behind their home. He didn't understand why she was throwing away such beautiful stones but he didn't question her. Perhaps old age was finally setting in and taking his mother's mind. That was probably why she locked the doors and windows that night, instructing Izuku to stay in his room, and cloaking the entirety of their home in darkness.

The next morning, Izuku wakes to the sound of his mother's sobs. He'd rushed downstairs to see if she was alright only to find her at the front steps once again.

"Mother?" He asks, leaning over her crouched form to find more stones waiting for them. This time, the colors are dark. Blood red, coal black, and midnight blue. They're still gorgeous to look at but they cause his mother pain. For some reason, she doesn't move from her spot for hours. He tries to coax her to leaving the house with him to get groceries from Aizawa's little market but she just sobs the evening away, ignoring Izuku who is trying so hard to see what it is that is upsetting the chubby woman.

On the third day, Izuku learns the truth.

He spits on fairy tales and is skeptical of the supernatural. He believes the stories the adults told him and his friends as children are lies and if there's one thing he can't stand is to be lied to in the face. He loves facts and seeks the truth if he can find it. But what his mother tells him is too much. He respects and loves his mother, she's never lied to him before, but the thought of being courted by a monster just seems laughable.

"You can't expect me to believe this!" He says, "You've been brainwashed. Someone must be pulling a prank on you."

His mother shakes her head, "It's no use. Once they find someone to court they won't stop until they have you. I can keep you hidden for now but the time will come when you'll disappear and I'll never see you again."

She's a sobbing mess but Izuku can't be bothered to care about her at the moment. He's frustrated at the story she's come up with.

She claims that a monster, which no one has seen, has set their eyes on Izuku. That the stones they've found are for him and if he makes the mistake of accepting them then he will be taken by the monster by force.

"You've never seen this thing," He tries to avoid eye contact. It pains him to see his mother in such a broken state but he can't seem to back down from what he believes.

"People have disappeared before!" She yells, "Haven't you ever wondered why your friends were in such a rush to get married and leave this place?"

His shoulders stiffen. He had tried so hard to forget about that. He keeps his lips sealed tight as his mother continues.

"The stones and the disappearances are linked. I learned long ago that something was courting the young and innocent with these pretty little things." She gestures to the stones, "If you were dumb enough to be fooled by the colors and shapes, bringing them inside your home or carrying them around with you, then the monsters would think you were accepting their proposal and come for you."

Izuku remains quiet.

"Why do you think I was pushing you to find someone to marry? To leave this place and venture out into the world?"

"Then why haven't they come for everyone else in town? Why me?"

A long silence.

"Because," She begins, "They only court virgins."

Chapter 2

Izuku felt like a princess trapped in a castle. His mother, taking the role of the dragon, kept him locked inside thanks to her paranoia of the monster, who persistently left stones for him every morning, and the rumors that haunted her terrified mind.

His only source of freedom were the windows in the kitchen, living room, and his bedroom. But staring at the outside world, watching with immense envy as the neighbors went about their business, was never enough. He wanted to walk out into the sunlight, enjoy the rainy days, and feel the breeze against his hot skin. It wasn't fair. While his friends were discovering the world with their loved ones he was stuck indoors reminiscing on what he'd taken for granted.

The days were short and the nights seemed to last longer than usual. He was unable to get any shut eye, his thoughts keeping him up, and he was slowly becoming frustrated with his situation.

His mother wasn't willing to listen to reason. The stories in her head seemed to take control over her emotions. Soon, their relationship grew strained.

He'd never raised his voice at his mother or kept secrets from her, however, with the way things were turning out it became harder and harder for Izuku to remain a good son. The two often fought, shouting at each other until someone banged on their door to scold them, until there was nothing left to say. The house which was once filled with love and life was now cold and empty. It wasn't the same.

He remembers how every nook and cranny of the house was brought to life by the sunlight pouring in through the open windows. How the sounds of nature, just inches away from their front and back yard, gave him and his mother joy when they found themselves less talkative. Everything he'd had before the stones was like a dream and he missed it dearly. He wanted things to go back to the way they were.

His thoughts are interrupted by the sound of his mother returning home, the front door creaking noisily despite the heavy downpour.

He immediately dashes for the stairs and shuts his bedroom door. It almost hurts him to ignore his mother, knowing full well that she's putting the groceries away herself, but he has no choice. He doesn't want to see, talk, or compromise with her anymore. He didn't feel like he was living. He was forced to spend the rest of his days in isolation all because of some stupid rumors that people took way too seriously. His tearful eyes scan his bookshelf. All the hardcovers smile at him, promising to occupy his mind while dinner is being prepared.

"Izuku," His mother calls, "Hungry?"

He doesn't make a sound. Doesn't say a word in the hopes that she will finally understand that she will not have her son back until she stops being so foolish. It's difficult, however, when she proves to be just as stubborn as him.

When she calls him again he readies himself to speak, deciding to give in to his stomach, when something catches his eye. A dark figure, shadowed by the night sky and roof above, is staring at him intensely from the other side of the window, it's large hand pressed against the glass. All he can make out is shocking blond hair and sinister red eyes.The creature smiles at him, revealing a row of sharp teeth, before releasing its grip and disappearing from sight.

If it weren't for the orange stone waiting for him on the other side of the window, Izuku would have thought he made the whole thing up.

Chapter 3

"You're hallucinating."

Izuku is all ears. He couldn't deny what he saw the other night. At first, he was too frightened to mention the incident to his mother, not wanting her to freak out even more than she already was, but he didn't know what else to do.

The creature was big. It's head looked to be twice the size of a normal human and even though he hadn't seen the rest of it's body...

He shivered at the mere thought.

"You didn't take the stone, did you?"

Izuku shakes his head, "I didn't open my window either."

She releases a breath, seeming to be deep in thought.

"I did some research," Izuku suggests, "I'm not sure what that thing is but..." His voice wavers at the memory of his admirer, "If it won't go away then maybe we can. Let's move somewhere else. We can get away before it comes back."

His mother shakes her head, "Bad idea."

"How so?"

He wasn't going to fight with her anymore. He remained silent when she spoke and made sure to retain anything she told him. He felt bad for treating her so poorly when all she wanted was to protect him. She knew the truth all along, the stories were true, but he hadn't been open minded enough to consider that she may be right.

If she noticed his change of behavior she didn't voice it.

"My grandparents never saw it. No one did. Only the people who were being targeted saw what was coming for them but they never stuck around long enough to share the monster's identity. They tried to escape but, like I said," She turns to Izuku with a defeated look on her face, "They won't stop until they have what they want."

Izuku's heart sinks, "How do you know it was a hallucination?"

"The more stones they leave the more it messes with your mind."

"I don't understand..."

"It's hard to explain," She begins, "I guess you could describe it as being drugged. You'll see things that aren't there the more you get into contact with their offerings. The stones are able to lure you away from the safety of your home."

Izuku gasps in realization, "The first few people must have made the mistake of taking them and the stones brought them to wherever those creatures were."

He looks up at his mother with wide eyes, "People weren't being taken. They were willingly walking into a trap!"

She nods, "That's why I've been keeping you here. The less contact you have the safer you'll be."

"But I can't stay trapped here forever. Are you sure there's no way to get rid of it?"

He wonders how many people have gone through this. His mother knows so much about something he's been left in the dark about. If his friends knew then why didn't they tell him? Why hadn't anyone shared this valuable information with him so he could run off to safety? He felt like an idiot.

"What did you learn about them?" His mother asks, "You mentioned doing some research. Did you find anything useful?"

Izuku perks up and shuffles through his thoughts trying to remember what he believed was most important to share, "Like I said, I don't know what we're dealing with so I had to go with what we already know. Based on what you've told me it seems like we're dealing with an unknown. It's courting me with stones similar to how penguins offer pebbles to potential mates so it could be an animal of some kind. However, what I saw was something entirely different. It looked like a human but it had razor sharp teeth and it knew where to find me. It could reach the second floor so it can either fly or jump great heights."

"You didn't see the rest of it's body?"

Izuku shakes his head, his brows furrowed as he tries to think of any other details that could help them.

"At least you saw it's face."

Izuku nods, although, he wishes there were more clues.

"If it knew where to find you then it must be intelligent. For now, you should sleep in the basement. We'll clean it up and move all your belongings down there for the time being. If we can trick it into thinking you're gone then maybe it'll give up. Out of sight, out of mind."

"What if it doesn't work?"

His mother doesn't answer. Instead, she averts her eyes and something tells Izuku that this is their only option.

No plan B. No second chances.

Chapter 4

Izuku doesn't remember how he's made it so far into the forest. He knows he's looking for something but what? He can hear his mother's voice calling to him, compelling him to return home. But the fog surrounding the area prevents him from turning back, obscuring the path. Suddenly, a trail glows before him and his feet move on their own. He doesn't know where he's headed but for some odd reason he believes he's safe. The forest is quiet but welcoming. The trees seem to grow taller the further he ventures, their branches curling in to form a tunnel, enveloping him in more darkness as he follows what appears to be shining stones.

It looks so familiar.

He can't think straight, however. Where are the stones taking him? He wants to ask but there's no one around to answer him. Perhaps there will be.

"Hello?" His voice echoes. He spots something up ahead. A lake of some sorts. The water glistens in the moonlight and pulls him forward, inviting him. Excitement runs through his veins, he hasn't felt so giddy in such a long time, as he dips his toes in. The water wraps around his ankles, holding him gently as if he might break. He giggles, loving the breeze and feel of the water.

"Where are you hiding?"

Izuku flinches at the deep and husky voice. He's almost too afraid to look up and greet the person. He can tell from their shadow that they're huge. Was he trespassing on someone's land?

He keeps his head down and apologizes, "I don't know where I am. I think I'm lost. I can't remember how I got here."

He doesn't realize until it's too late that the stranger has moved closer.

And he isn't human.

Izuku stumbles backwards, falling on his rear, as the stranger carries the rest of their weight onto dry land. His upper body is completely human. He's handsome with muscles galore. But when green eyes roam below its obvious by the black scales and powerful tail that he's disturbed something in its natural habitat.

The creature repeats himself, "Where are you hiding?"

Izuku shakes his head, "I don't-"

But he's interrupted by a low and venomous growl, "You're breaking my fucking heart. Stop prolonging the inevitable and just accept me."

"Huh?"

Strong arms wrap around his frail body and he feels the human...fish...whatever this thing is shake as if he were holding back tears.

"I just need to know where you're hiding. Tell me."

A chaste kiss is the last thing Izuku remembers before waking up.

His mother is by his side when he shoots upright in bed. He's a mess. The sheets have fallen off the bed, he's drenched in sweat, and his head hurts.

"You were having a nightmare," His mother's worried voice brings him back to his senses.

"No, I saw it." He says, serious.

He didn't understand why this was happening. Was the monster desperate? He searches the basement, eyes focused on anything shiny and captivating. And then, he finds what he's looking for.

The basement is dark and spacious, not what he was normally use to, with the only source of light coming from a tiny window across the room. There, laying hidden in the grass, is another stone. It's smaller than the others and is a soft shade of blue. He wonders how long it's been there and if there are anymore near the house.

"Mom," He says, getting out of bed and running up the stairs. His mother trailing behind him.

He gestures to the front and back doors, telling his mother to search for more stones. He's certain the house is surrounded. That must be the monster's...no...he knows what that thing is now. He feels silly saying it but he's being targeted by a merman. He wants to laugh at the mere thought of it. He didn't believe in mythical creatures but what can he do after such a strange dream? He watches his mother run around the house, counting her findings before returning to him and confirming his suspicions.

He knows what he has to do next but he isn't especially thrilled with the idea.

"I'm going to make a call."

Chapter 5

There was a boy Izuku befriended when he was a toddler. The boy was an orphan, having been found by a sweet old lady who happened to be walking her dog in the right place at the right time when she spotted the child. He stood out in a crowd with his red and white hair. He was smaller than most children and despite the woman's efforts to find his family there was no luck. He didn't know where he came from. All he knew was that his parents were like the sun and moon. It was a strange thing to say, people thought he was slow in the head or abused, but as he grew older that didn't seem to be the case.

Izuku had been weirded out by Shouto when they first met. He had been too quiet and had a strange look in his eyes whenever he saw Izuku at school or in the park. He was possessive and aggressive towards Izuku once the two grew closer and he always said the most unusual things. But that didn't stop the two from becoming best friends, almost inseparable, until the dual eyed teen went away for college. Izuku hadn't heard much from him since and just assumed he was busy with classes and work.

He feels bad calling Shouto and asking him to come back home for a favor but he didn't know what else to do. He believed his mother when she told him the merman wouldn't rest until he had Izuku in his clutches, however, he didn't want to stay in the basement anymore. It was too dark and depressing. He wanted to do everything in his power to keep him and his mother safe. That's why, when Shouto picks up on the first ring, Izuku tells him everything that's going on in one breathe.

Shouto clears his throat, seeming to understand despite how swift the information came out. He's quiet on the other end and it makes Izuku a little nervous.

"I can do that." He says, finally.

"Really?" Izuku sighs in relief and leans against the wall, eyeing the window. His mind has been playing tricks on him lately and he can't help but be on edge at every sound he hears.

"I appreciate it, Shouto!" He says, "I'm sorry to bother you. I know you're busy but I didn't know who else to turn to."

"I'd do anything for you, Izuku," Shouto replies, a smile evident in his voice, "I'll see you tomorrow afternoon."

Before Izuku hangs up he hears Shouto whisper in a sultry voice, "Make it a night to remember."

He shudders at this and hangs up.

"Mother," He finds the woman upstairs cooking dinner. She turns to him with a questioning look when she sees the phone in his hand.

"Did you call someone?"

"Shouto," Izuku answers, a blush slowly spreading across his cheeks, "He and I have something to do tomorrow and I was hoping you could give us some privacy?" He doesn't want to tell her his exact plans, prays she will just nod and leave it at that, but she keeps her eyes on him.

"Why so suddenly?" She asks.

He shakes his head and covers his face with his hands, "I asked for a favor. I'd rather not get into detail about it but if you could find something to do tomorrow afternoon that'd make things a little easier for me."

She shares a look with her son seeming to understand that Shouto's visit will involve a solution to their current problem. Her brows raise once it clicks and she goes back to the boiling pot on the stove.

"Are you sure about this?"

"It's better than being trapped in the house."

He has to do this. If the black tailed merman could visit his dreams, knowing Izuku was trying to escape, then maybe he would lose interest once the freckled teen was no longer pure. But Izuku was also a little worried.

The merman seemed adamant, like his mother previously informed, about taking him away. He didn't know if losing his virginity would deter the merman to finding a new victim or if it would make him even more determined to snatch him up.

This was his last resort.

The next day, Izuku waits for Shouto's arrival on the livingroom couch. His mother doesn't think this is smart of him.

"What if it's watching you right now?"

But he wants to take the risk. Even if his plan is successful he'd rather not have to wait until bedtime to find out. After all, the merman was bold enough to climb his window. Who knows what else it was willing to do.

He wants the merman to see him being fucked so he won't have to deal with it's creepy infatuation anymore. It bothers Izuku that he has to lose his virginity this way, with someone he doesn't even have romantic feelings for, but life was about sacrifice.

"Okay," His mother says, patting his shoulder and wearing a sweet smile, "How long do you think it'll take? I don't want to come home to something I don't want to see." She giggles when he groans in embarrassment.

"I'll call you when it's over," Izuku gives her a tight hug. He almost doesn't want to let go. He's scared and wishes there was another way out of this.

His mother pulls away and places a gentle hand to his cheek, "Please, be safe."

"From Shouto's libido or the monster?" He jokes, earning a light slap to his arm. He walks his mother out and places a quick kiss to her forehead before shutting the door behind her and going back to the couch.

His phone vibrates in his pocket ten minutes later and he doesn't have to look to know it's his friend. He notices the setting sun and feels his pulse quicken as he walks to the back door and opens it.

Shouto has grown taller in the time they were separated. His shoulders are broad and his lean muscles show through his well fitted t-shirt. Everything about this man is different. His sex appeal drips into the atmosphere and Izuku ponders how he looks in the other's eyes.

"It's nice to see you again," Shouto says, taking Izuku's hands and kissing his knuckles, "Are you mentally prepared?"

Izuku musters up the courage to lie and carries himself with confidence as he leads Shouto to the livingroom couch.

"Right here," He lays down, adjusting his head on the armrest. Shouto joins him, positioning himself between the other's legs, and swoops in for a steamy kiss.

Izuku hadn't expected Shouto to be so forward. He was licking and sucking all over with haste and grinding into Izuku's crotch like there was no tomorrow. His hands were rough and roamed the small body beneath him, each touch leaving goosebumps on Izuku's skin. Before he knew it, the sun had gone down. The entire house was dark. He could just barely see Shouto's silhouette in front of him as the man pulled his shirt over his head and tossed it somewhere on the floor, forgotten. Izuku couldn't get aroused despite the caresses and open mouthed kisses. His hands try to take joy in Shouto's soft skin and hard muscles but it doesn't feel right.

Sensing the tension, Shouto halts all movement and stares at Izuku.

"What's wrong?" He asks.

"I can't do this..." Izuku fights back a sob as he turns away. He can't look Shouto in the eye but he wants to continue. He needs to or he'll never know if this was the right thing to do.

Shouto releases a heavy sigh and sits back, "You're uncomfortable." He states, "If you weren't ready you should have just told me."

"It's a bit difficult when my life is on the line!"

Shouto doesn't say anything to this. Instead, he gets up, redresses himself, and makes his way to the front door. Izuku follows him, desperately trying to convince the man to stay, even though he already knows the answer.

"I can't force you to do something like this and you shouldn't push yourself if it's going to make you upset."

"But Shouto," Izuku's voice cracks, "I don't know what to do. Mother said it won't rest until..." His words trail off as he cries in defeat. Shouto is already aware of the end results if Izuku makes the wrong move, however, no matter how much he wants to help his friend he can't find it in his heart to take advantage of his vulnerability. He brings Izuku into his arms, comforting the distressed teen to the best of his ability.

He pats Izuku's dark curls and slowly sways their bodies side to side in order to soothe him quicker. It works. Izuku finally calms down and eventually wipes the rest of his tears away before pulling out his cell phone.

"I'm just going to make a quick call."

Shouto nods as the other retreats into the kitchen. He's left alone in the dark.

A sudden knock on the door catches his attention and he turns on a nearby lamp before heading towards the front door. The thought of someone other than Izuku's mother being on the other side doesn't cross his mind until it's too late. He turns the knob only to have the door slam open shoving him hard against the wall. He opens his eyes just in time to see an enormous creature poke its head inside. He's at a loss for words, he can't even scream.

It's a behemoth with familiar blond hair and red eyes.

"That can't be..." Shouto mumbles under his breath as the monster drags its heavy body inside. He scrambles to his feet and tries to shut the door but the monsters enormous tail is in the way. It growls when it finally notices Shouto but the sound of Izuku's approaching footsteps draws its attention away immediately.

"My love," The monster sighs, lovingly, when he spots the teen.

Izuku doesn't have time to react as the merman launches forward, tackling his small form to the ground.

"Shouto!" He screams helplessly.

The merman pauses at the mention of Shouto's name. He glances over his shoulder, eyes narrowed in suspicion, before a look of realization dawns on his features. He smirks and slams his large black tail against Shouto's head, the impact knocking him out. Izuku screams, thinking the worst, as he's hoisted over the merman's shoulder and taken outside.

"Stop!" He claws at the merman's skin and beats his fists as hard as he can in a pathetic attempt at escape. But he's too weak and the fight leaves his tired body as he's taken to the river behind his home. There, he can see another pile of stones waiting for him and his captor. They shine brightly as they close the distance between land and water.

Izuku stares at the glowing lights in awe unable to look away. The colors dance under his gaze and he's soon hypnotized by the world they display in front of him. He sees an endless blanket of trees and puddles scattered throughout the forest. Flowers of every color beckon him to join the peaceful life they share with the other mermen and mermaids who lay on the shoreline just below the cliffs.

Warm hands grab his sides and he's soon laying on his back in a bed of wool. He feels drunk but his vision is as clear as a glass of water. He looks around and can't help the short giggle that leaves his lips as a large figure stares at him from above. His hands reach upward to touch soft skin and he doesn't flinch when he feels cold scales below. Suddenly, he's surrounded

insides pounded by this monster makes his back arch in pleasure, his tongue lolling to the side of his mouth as stars begin to block his vision.

He wants to escape but the immense ecstasy he experiences for the first time clouds his thoughts momentarily. He screams, smiling up at the sky in euphoria as his orgasm sends wave after wave of delicious shock coursing through his bones. His walls tighten around the merman and encourages him to reach his own climax. Izuku groans tensing in ultimate satisfaction as the blond continues to abuse his entrance. The merman releases Izuku's bruised thighs and places his hands on either side of the teen's head as he forces the rest of his cock into the drenched tightness. His moans are deep and send shivers down Izuku's spine. The heat in his belly builds up once again and Izuku, to his surprise, cums just as the merman tenses up.

Izuku clutches his stomach as he feels the blond's seed coat and stretch his insides. When the merman pulls out Izuku feels relief wash over him but then covers his face in shame as a large pool of thick wetness pours out of him and gushes onto the ground. He can feel the puddle begin to surround the entirety of his lower half and seep into the earth he lays above.

He feels dirty.

The heavy panting of his captor snaps him out of his despair. His green eyes threaten to close as he forces himself to lean on his elbows. His lower half refuses to move, paralyzed by the intensity. His head pounds as he meets the merman's gaze and frowns at him when the contact is broken in order to stare up at the moon. Izuku follows his gaze and gasps as he witnesses the beautiful light in the sky beam down on his naked form.

He didn't even notice the lake behind him until the water slowly enveloped his waist. His body felt like ice as the waves kissed his skin.

"W-what's going on?" Izuku asks when he loses all feeling in his legs. He turns to the merman who only watches patiently from the deep end of the lake.

Suddenly, the water fades away and returns to the lake in silence. The blanket of bubbles covering Izuku's lower half disappears to reveal a tail fin as white as the moon.

Izuku feels his heart skip a beat.

"WHAT THE FUCK HAVE YOU DONE TO ME!"

Chapter 6

This was the merman's plan all along.

Izuku screams all kinds of curses at the merman until his lungs beg for rest. He couldn't accept the sudden change to his body and weeps until the world is quiet once more.

The fog returns after his transformation and blurs Izuku's vision distorting his surroundings so he can't find an escape route. The lake was the only thing he could see but if he remembered correctly he knew that a forest lay just up ahead.

The sudden sound of branches moving with the wind catches his attention and Izuku glances back at the merman who takes note of his wandering gaze before diving under water. Izuku reacts quickly and reaches forward, his fingers digging into the dirt, and crawls. His body is lighter, to his surprise, and it encourages him to move faster. He forces his sore muscles to pull at the dirt despite the growing ache in his arms. A pile of rocks and broken branches meet him halfway and he cheers feeling relief at the sheer closeness of freedom just inches away. Until he feels the ground shake. The merman heaves his heavy body on land and Izuku takes one of the jagged rocks and throws it behind him, not bothering to see if it's a bulls eye, before climbing into the bedding of grass. His small victory is short lived, however, as a pair of strong hands take hold of his tail and pull him back. He screams, clawing at the dirt, as his body is carried through the mud and into chilling waters.

"Stop!" Izuku cries, "Please!"

He struggles to stay afloat but the merman is too strong and Izuku's head disappears, engulfed by the darkness, along with the rest of his body.

He can feel the water dance around his small frame as he sinks further and further into the depths. His hands vanish before his eyes in the murky water and the moon fades from sight along with his silhouette. Izuku shuts his eyes as a frightening calmness envelopes the rest of his body. The lake is endless and although they appear to be alone Izuku doesn't rule out the possibility of more creatures, far larger, lurking nearby. He opens his eyes once they've reached the seafloor and is greeted by a chilling sight. They're alone in an empty world. The bottom of the lake shines as red eyes stare into green and a voice echoes inside Izuku's mind.

"My love...do you want to go home?"

The merman is in his head. His voice is sweet like honey and welcoming with promises of protection. Gentle hands travel the length of Izuku's neck and he finds himself leaning into the affectionate gesture forgetting momentarily of the danger he's been forced into. He nods, unknowingly, when the voice repeats the question a second time.

"Yes," Izuku replies, kissing the center of the merman's palm, "Take me home."

Without warning, a mouth crashes onto Izuku's unsuspecting lips and the water begins to move around them. Izuku reciprocates in his haze as the current pushes and pulls the two from the depths of the seafloor. Slowly, the surface comes into view. The darkness fades and the waters become crystal clear as they're sent to another setting. Izuku doesn't notice the familiar sound of waves clashing against rock or the seagulls that loom above as the merman carries him to a nearby island. The merman places Izuku in the sand and lays beside him deciding to pass the time by playing with untamed curls until Izuku regains his senses. He stares at the teen in fondness as he reacts to the magic. Izuku squirms in the sand, enjoying the softness, and smiles like an idiot at the blond unaware of anything happening in that very moment. The merman takes advantage of Izuku's state and kisses him, prodding his lips open with his tongue, and explores his mouth with vigor. The lewd sensation causes the merman's lower half to react and he's soon grinding above Izuku. His erection slips inside the teen's opening and they moan in unison as pleasure becomes their main priority. He holds Izuku in a loving embrace and savors everything about this moment. Izuku finishes before him but with a few more thrusts the merman tenses, his muscles flexing, as he cums inside his tiny mate.

"What are you doing?" Izuku yells, consciousness returning seconds later, "Get away!"

The merman listens, reluctantly, and watches as Izuku trudges through the sand, pausing in discomfort when the minerals rub against his sensitive opening, and jumps into the ocean to clean himself.

* * *

The two venture through the island in silence for several days before the merman finally puts an end to their journey. He points at a waterfall that spills into a horde of pools below and Izuku stares in awe at the beauty of this paradise.

The waterfall is connected by different streams throughout the forest which harbours lush trees, fruits within reach, and drinkable water- although he won't be drinking from a couple of pools when he notices several mers mating in them.

"Katsuki," A dark haired merman yells, waving at the two, "Welcome home."

Izuku shivers in fear as his captor, Katsuki, returns the gesture and takes Izuku down the path with him. The teen fights against Katsuki's hold but it's too late and he's soon in the presence of a group of mermen and mermaids who stare at him with curious eyes. He falls back, hiding behind Katsuki's large stature, and the mers mistake it as shyness before turning back to the blond.

Izuku sighs in relief when their attention goes to the blond merman.

He's spent more than enough nights being violated by Katsuki, he was either really stupid or didn't care enough to keep his hands away, and he didn't need a gangbang to occur.

Just the sight of all these mers had him on edge. Despite his hatred for the black tailed behemoth Izuku was well aware that Katsuki had an unhealthy obsession with him. Claiming him whenever he saw fit, which was all the time, and needing to know where he was in every given moment.

"Izuku," Katsuki smiles, presenting him to the crowd, "He's my mate."

Izuku stares in disbelief as the mers congratulate Kastuki. He wants to object to the title but knows it's no use. If Katsuki wasn't willing to listen then chances are the apple didn't fall far from the tree. So, he accepts the compliments and blissful smiles that greet him as Katsuki guides him through the crowd and into an empty pool. The waters are warm and relieve the tension in his muscles once he's covered from the neck down. Katsuki settles right behind Izuku, to his displeasure, but he doesn't yell at him or fight him off because the mers are watching.

Perhaps they're aware of Izuku's discomfort with the blond or they're waiting for a turn with the fearful human. Whatever the case may be, Izuku would rather take his chances and endure whatever hell Katsuki had in store for him.

"Don't worry," Katsuki whispers, licking the shell of his ear, "This is where the magic happens."

Chapter 7

Izuku learns rather quickly that the mers crave affection.

He realizes this once he and Katsuki make themselves comfortable, tolerating the watchful eyes of the mers just a few pools away.

While Katsuki fails to set a romantic mood for his captive mate Izuku is observing his surroundings. He notices the gentle caresses each and every mer makes with their neighbor. Several mers touch and want to be touched in return. And their desires are answered. It seems like they can never get enough love. Their tail fins linger on one another and they enjoy talking in personal spaces.

It's an uncomfortable environment for Izuku who enjoys his freedom and solitude. But he's stuck here without a clue as to how to return home. All he can think about are the stones and that menacing lake. It seemed as though Katsuki were relying on something more than just trickery to get what he wanted. Perhaps, Izuku contemplates, there is more to Katsuki than meets the eye.

He's either playing a fool or there's something he and the mers are familiar with.

"Don't touch me!" Izuku shouts, for the umpteenth time. He swats Katsuki's hands from his thighs and hears a sad whimper come from behind. Earlier, Katsuki had said that the magic began in the water but Izuku was smart, having learned a few dirty words and slang during his youthful school years, and he was doing everything in his power to keep from being forced into intercourse again. He didn't know much about the mers and their traditions but it appeared that everytime something unexplainable happened it always occurred after he and Katsuki had sex. Perhaps stimulation was a trigger to whatever was going on around here. But that didn't explain their sudden transportation from the lake to the middle of the ocean and the islands that occupied the area. He was so confused and his head began to hurt the more he tried to put two and two together. Nothing was adding up.

"What's wrong?" Katsuki asks, nuzzling the space between Izuku's neck and shoulder, "What's on your mind?"

"Why me?"

This seems to be the right question because Katsuki suddenly releases his hold on Izuku and has him move to the other side of the pool. It's a short distance from where they sat but there's enough space for the two to look at each other without their close proximity interrupting their thoughts and actions. Katsuki, for the first time since Izuku has known him, wears an angry expression. All the love in his being seems to have vanished and in its place lies a predator with bloody intentions. Izuku is so shocked by the merman's behavior that he unconsciously shifts his tail closer to Katsuki's and lowers the rest of his body under the warm water.

An awkward pause accompanies the two until the other mers get the picture and retreat into the forest. When they're finally and truly alone is when Katsuki speaks again.

"You were mine from the start," He begins, "And that half and half bastard won't get his hands on you ever again," He leans in close to Izuku with a demented look in his eyes, "If I catch another male on you...you're both dead."

The sky darkens at Katsuki's promise and Izuku can't help but feel his bravery wash away as his body shivers in fear.

He analyzes Katsuki's mannerisms and sudden insidiousness. He had more to learn about these creatures. He'd planned to, however, he was unsure whether he should pester or not after feeling such malice in the atmosphere.

"It's always been you." Katsuki finishes, leaning back to enjoy the rest of his bath.

Izuku is more confused than ever though. There had to be a way to get answers. A place like this was in obvious short supply of written information and he didn't spot any elder mers, the most talkative. The more

Izuku thought of an escape plan the worse his mood became. He felt empty and without any hope. He prayed for Shouto and his mother to rescue him but he hadn't seen them in so long he doubted he would regain his freedom.

"I could just let everything go. Live with Katsuki and the mers, adopt some babies, and let mother believe I died. It's better than her finding out what's actually happening to me."

"It's getting late," Katsuki says, swimming toward Izuku and caging the smaller mer, "Let's finish this."

"Finish...what?"

Katsuki smiles and the mers in the forest howl in excitement as the forest lights up with fire. There is no danger, instead, it's a celebration awaiting the two.

Chapter 8

Katsuki didn't move from his intimidating stance until he felt the presence of his fellow mers right behind him. He allowed the females to take Izuku away from his grasp, they forced the smaller mer out of the pool and onto the soft cool earth, and relaxed as his mate was placed at the center of attention.

Izuku looked around in fearful confusion as the mers began covering his body in a strange substance while chanting. He smelled the air and felt his lips part with thirst as the mers, having returned from a quick hunt, began to cook a dead boar over fire. His stomach growled as he stared at these intelligent creatures. They were smart enough to start a fire and knew how to speak well. He didn't know what they were saying but he was ready to dart out of harms way should anything suspicious threaten his life. It was only when the females released him did Izuku force himself to move as quickly as possible and took refuge in the forest.

Katsuki was too slow to realize his mate was already gone. The mermen had been too occupied cooking their hunt and the mermaids had only taken their eyes off of the teen for a moment before their shrieks reached the Heavens.

Izuku stumbles at their screams, his heart thudding rapidly in panic, as he digs his nails into dirt and crawls his way to freedom. He didn't understand what was happening but he wasn't going to stay around long enough to find out. He moved with haste and groaned when he came upon two paths. They were identical and he couldn't remember which path he and Katsuki had taken.

"He went this way!"

Izuku looked over his shoulder at the dark shadows moving closer and shivered. He almost froze, unsure of which route to take, until an idea popped into his head. He reached upwards and, with all his might, heaved his small form into a tall oak tree. He nearly screamed at the pain in his arms but didn't stop climbing, sharp splinters puncturing his smooth skin, until his body was concealed. He peered below as the large silhouettes of the mers moved about. They were fast and terrifying in the dark. He held his breath and counted every body that passed his hiding place.

One, two, three...

The mermen were faster than the females and they immediately made the bushes their main priority.

Seven, eight, nine...

When the mermaids caught up they were too winded to do anything. They gasped, having trouble distinguishing their surroundings in the dark, and bumped into each other in their uncertainty. Izuku felt himself release a quiet sigh of relief to this. At least he didn't have to worry about the group as a whole. Although the males, having more experience hunting and knowing the land better than anyone, were going to be his biggest struggle Izuku knew he didn't have much to worry about so long as he was smart and stayed hidden.

Fifteen, sixteen, seventeen...

Suddenly, a head of blond hair caught Izuku's attention and his heart almost stopped as red eyes searched above. Katsuki made it clear that he was far superior than the others. He had trailed behind and was the last to one to actually stop and take a good look around before coming to the conclusion that Izuku had outwitted the mers.

"You're hiding, love." He said, digging his nails into a nearby tree before launching his heavy body upwards.

Izuku felt the tremor upon Katsuki's landing and swiftly moved from one branch to the next. His tail fin made it difficult to maneuver from point A to point B but he managed and was able to evade his captor long enough to catch his breath. He didn't know how long he'd have to hide like this, having shoved his tiny form into an older tree with holes decorating the bottom and top, but he would rather risk his chances in a place like this than to be found and forced back to the mers and Katsuki. He could only imagine the punishment Katsuki had in store for him, if he had anything coming that is, and shivered at the mere thought of being conditioned to obedience.

"That won't happen," He whispered to himself, huddling deeper into the tree, as Katsuki traveled closer.

If all went well, Izuku would spend the rest of the night hidden. However, if he were to be caught then he'd have no choice but to submit to the mers and their backwards traditions.

But he had to put up a fight and win. His mind kept telling him to move forward and not give up. If he ever wanted to see his friends and mother again then he had to tough this out until the very end. Submitting wasn't an option, it couldn't be. He would rather kill himself than to do as the mers pleased.

"There you are."

The voice drains Izuku's face of color as strong hands rip him out of the tree and throw him mercilessly onto land.

"I told you already," Katsuki growls, eyes peering down in bloody murder, "You're mine. You belong to me and no one else. If you're choosing the Sun and Moon's child then I'm going to kill you both."

"Huh?" Izuku feels all his fears and anxiety wash away at this little bit of information.

The Sun and Moon's...child?

"What do you mean by that?" Izuku asks, "Are you talking about Shouto?"

This seems to amuse Katsuki as he moves closer to the freckled teen, "You don't know?" He asks, searching Izuku's face for lies. When he finds nothing but genuine curiosity he smiles and takes a firm hold of Izuku's tail.

He digs his nails into the white scales, some chipping off from the pressure, and lets out a chuckle. Izuku winces but doesn't falter.

He remembers meeting Shouto for the first time at school and thinking he was a weird kid. He had a strange way of talking and was always saying things that didn't make sense to Izuku and their classmates.

"My parents are like the sun and the moon."

Izuku feels something shift in the air as he breaks eye contact and takes Katsuki's hand in his. He doesn't feel threatened anymore and perhaps that's a mistake, however, he can't help but feel like there is a connection.

Shouto and Katsuki....do they know each other?

"He never told you, did he?" Katsuki's tone is softer and he seems to be back to his calm and caring demeanor.

Izuku shakes his head and grips the blond's hand even tighter.

"Then...I win either way."

Izuku doesn't do anything as the blond lifts his body, once again, and carries him back to the pools. He signals to the other mers that their search is over and to return to his side at once. Everything is a jumble of messes. The mers are both happy and aggravated with Izuku's escape but they keep their thoughts to themselves, although it's evident by their expressions that they no longer like Izuku.

He couldn't care less as he's placed back on the ground, the pools a few feet away, and the mers circled around his defeated form. They continue with rubbing his body in the substances and chanting their mantras like nothing had interrupted them. Katsuki returns to the pool and washes himself, eyeing Izuku cautiously, before joining the smaller mer.

"Would you like some answers?" Katsuki asks, among the chants, "Because I can tell you everything you need to know."

The thought of knowing exactly what's going on is tempting and Izuku almost agrees but stops himself. The mers grow louder and the fire burns brighter, burning the meat and fruit, as the night sky turns a darker shade. His body hurts and he's hungry. He can't pull off another stunt like earlier or Katsuki might actually end his life. He doesn't want his life to end with struggles and frustrations.

"Do the ceremony with me," Katsuki continues, "And I'll tell you how all of this started."

"What if I refuse?" Izuku asks, staring at the fire and enjoying the heat that kisses his cold flesh, "What's so important about this ceremony?"

Katsuki's silence is all the reply he needs before he realizes that everything comes with a price.

"If I do this," Izuku says slowly, "You promise to tell me everything?"

Katsuki nods, "Whatever you ask."

And Izuku decides to believe him.

Chapter 9

His body felt gross as the liquid began to dry on his skin, cracking with every move of Izuku's muscles. He stared ahead at the group of mers who continued to chant while Katsuki held his hand. The behemoth sat proud and tall beside Izuku with a small grin on his lips as the wind picked up and the fire slowly died.

Izuku narrowed his eyes at the conversation Katsuki and one mer in particular had, a female with brown hair and eyes, and huffed in frustration when he couldn't decipher their language. Their chatter involved clicks of the tongue and squeaks that confused Izuku as he followed their gaze and enthusiasm. He didn't know what they were talking about and although he didn't want to make his impatience too obvious he wasn't trying to stay here any longer. He wanted answers and he wanted them as soon as possible. With a shy touch to Katsuki's elbow Izuku made it known that he wanted the black tailed merman to hurry up whatever it was he and the other mer were discussing.

Seeming to understand Izuku's desire to move things along Katsuki nods at the mer as she guides the two back to the pool, the crowd growing quiet, and they sink into the nice warm water once again as she begins to speak.

"It's your first time, correct?" She asks, facing Izuku.

He wants to ask her what she means, however, questioning her might prolong his goal. Katsuki had promised to tell him everything he needed to know so long as he took a leap and trusted him. Blind faith would have to outweigh his curiosity. So, he nods and lowers himself into until his chin is just above the water.

"Then congratulations, Katsuki!" She exclaims, collecting two stones from beneath the pool, one red and the other blue, "Take these stones and don't lose them."

Izuku takes the blue one, "How long do we have to hold onto these stones?" He asks, peering at the glittering appearance and noting how hypnotically beautiful the color shines.

"You will be required to shape them and gift their new forms to each other by the end of the week. If you do not finish in time then I'm afraid you won't be able to live here."

This sparks his interest but before he can ask her to elaborate Katsuki intervenes, "That's enough talk, Ochako." He sneers, "Izuku, let's get going."

"Wait, what does she mean I won't be able to live here?"

Katsuki growls and turns to Izuku with a threatening look in his eyes, "Do you want to know about your friend or not?"

This shuts Izuku up and he follows the blond quietly without anymore interruptions.

When he and Katsuki are finally alone, distant from the group and hiding deep within the forest, it's uncomfortably quiet. He feels uneasy being alone with such a dangerous creature but he has no choice. He takes the stone in his hand and begins rubbing it against a nearby jagged rock to keep himself occupied while he awaited Katsuki's explanation.

"Make sure it's nice and smooth. Do you know what shape you want it to take?"

Izuku shakes his head, "Is it important?"

Katsuki doesn't answer him for a while and the two continue to smooth their stones in silence as the air gets chillier. The mers further ahead have already disappeared into their dens and have forgotten about the two. Despite feeling better at having less mers surrounding the area Izuku can't help but feel uneasy with the one he is currently stuck with. His stones is already smaller by the time he looks up at Katsuki and he almost gasps as red eyes stare back at him.

"I'll start from the beginning."

"The beginning? What does that mean?"

Katsuki sighs and leans back on his palms, "The reason you're here..."

Katsuki and Shouto didn't know why they were friends.

Perhaps it was because their mother's were close or because the other mer pups were too young to play rough. Whatever the reason may be, the two were inseparable. However, that didn't mean they enjoyed each other's company.

The two often fought and were competitive. Katsuki was no fool as to why the other mers, including the adults, shunned Shouto from eating with them or teaching him their traditions. He was a deformed merman and that meant he had a low chance of survival despite the things he was capable of doing. His appearance was unique, having both of his parent's features on his person, but his abnormal limbs were a dead give away that something in his genetic makeup wasn't right.

He had legs where a tail fin should have been.

Katsuki didn't think it was strange, however. The limbs seemed to function properly and Shouto wasn't in any pain as he performed tasks that the other mers, even Katsuki, weren't able to complete. He could run fast, climb trees, and even jump from great heights. It was a blow to Katsuki's pride that he couldn't dominate those particular actions and was constantly losing to Shouto but it didn't mean he couldn't continue to challenge the abnormal mer.

"I wish I was like you," Shouto admits one day, digging a hole in the ground as Katsuki skipped stones in a nearby river, "Then father wouldn't hurt mother so much."

It was the first time Katsuki had heard of abuse. He didn't know that Shouto's mother wasn't happy with her mate. That she wanted to leave the red haired merman who represented the sun. He felt bad listening to the dual haired child as he poured his heart out, spilling every single drop of emotion into his words and sharing secret upon secret without a care in the world. It didn't seem right but Katsuki couldn't stop himself from listening.

Before he knew it, Shouto was gone.

It happened while everyone was asleep, buried deep in their dens while the moon lulled the forest into tranquility.

Katsuki couldn't sleep and had wandered to the opening of his families den when he spotted Shouto's mother desperately climbing the boulders beyond the ceremonial pools. She had scars and blood all over her arms and back but that didn't stop her as she forced her way out of sight, carrying Shouto in her frail arms. The blond mer had been surprised by the sudden development and shrunk back in sudden fear when Shouto's behemoth father zipped past him and literally swooped over the boulders in a single leap. His large tail fin shaking the ground upon landing.

Katsuki wasn't one to be left in the dark so he followed the two as fast as his tiny body would allow.

Shouto's mother, as beautiful as the moon, had a panicked expression on her face and heavy bags under her eyes as she launched into the ocean and swam, quickly, to the bottom. She had been able to evade her mate but he was drawing near and looked about ready to spill blood at her disobedience. Katsuki watched from afar as Shouto and his mother touched the sea floor, a light beaming down on them as she mumbled something out of ear shot, and suddenly vanished before his eyes.

"Rei!" Shouto's father boomed, following the white haired mermaid and disappearing with a flash of light.

The ocean was too dark and open for Katsuki to swim any further, however, he needed to know what was happening. He didn't hate Shouto. He didn't like him either. But he was concerned for the other's safety and just wanted *to make sure that whatever punishment the red haired merman unleashed wouldn't be aimed at his child.*

He doesn't know how he was able to make it to another world but when he popped his head above the surface once again he found himself in a forest, the moon held high in the sky, and a thick trail guiding him. The large merman had a heavy body and the struggle to crawl his way to land was evident by the indents in the ground and the bushes that had been torn from their roots and tossed aside. Katsuki gulped as he made his way through the forest and finally sighed in relief, hating the journey he chose over sleep, when he spotted Shouto sitting alone in dewy grass. He didn't move, frozen in place, as a tear rolled down his cheeks.

Katsuki watched from within the tall grass as Shouto cried over his mother's body, bruised and beaten, as his father yelled for her to return home. She didn't move.

Before he could be caught Katsuki escaped the scene and rushed home to his parent's den where he pretended to have a nightmare, an excuse he could use to keep his parents from asking about the bags under his eyes and the lack of energy he'd have for the rest of the day.

He didn't bother to visit Shouto after a while, assuming things were still rough with his folks. Things seemed to go back to normal. He even saw Shouto's father going in and out of the forest every once in a while but something bothered Katsuki. He never saw the merman's mate trailing behind him like she usually did. Shouto was also nowhere in sight. When days became weeks Katsuki snapped and retraced the events of that night. He traveled the short distance from his group to the ocean, reaching the ocean floor and transporting to the land with very little grass and trees. He crawled in haste, concerned about the abnormal pup, only to find Shouto standing with a group of children with the same deformity as him. It was quite a shock for the young blond. He'd never seen another mer with legs except for Shouto.

One abnormal mer had caught his eye.

A young boy with curly hair and plain features had run up to Shouto and taken his hand, leading him to a building where the rest of the children vanished within. The sight was astounding to Katsuki and for the next ten years he decided to check up on Shouto just to make sure everything was alright. However, the boy beside the dual haired teen never vanished from sight and Katsuki couldn't help but follow him with interest. His green eyes and smiling face were all Katsuki could think about, having forgotten about Shouto's parental issues long ago, and soon he found himself pinning for the other. But he couldn't take someone without offering them a gift.

Once he'd reach adulthood, having witnessed Shouto's disappearance as well, Katsuki decided to court the abnormal mer while he still had a chance. He'd learned so much just from watching his beloved from afar. He was obsessed and even convinced his friends back home to leave their parent's nest and take refuge on a new island so they could spread out and find mates of their own. The island he chose made the journey to his target take a little longer than expected but he'd wanted to make sure he could gain as much privacy as possible.

Courting Izuku had been difficult at first, especially when he'd decided to give his purity to Shouto who had returned unexpectedly, but Katsuki was more than ready to take what he'd worked so hard for.

He had plans for him and his mate. He would forget what he saw that night with Shouto's parents and start a family with Izuku. He wouldn't be concerned about the affairs of others because the world was cruel but it was a dog eat dog world. He had to look out for himself. He could worry about Shouto all he wanted but when it came to security and leadership Katsuki knew he had to make a sacrifice.

Seeing Shouto again had lit a fire in Katsuki's soul. He knew just by looking at the teen that he was strong and well. A worthy opponent should he ever return to try and take Izuku away. Katsuki was ready for a challenge but he was going to do everything in his power to keep what was rightfully his.

Katsuki stops talking and examines the red stone in his callous hands, ignoring Izuku's flabbergasted look.

"Sorry," He says, "It's not a nice story to tell."

Izuku doesn't say anything as Katsuki continues to explain the situation further.

"If Shouto hadn't left then you and I wouldn't be here." He says, taking the smaller mer into his arms, "I'm glad everything turned out the way I wanted. Now, we can start a family."

"Shouto...is one of you?" Izuku's mind spins as he takes in the information. It's all too much but now that he thinks about it this explains his friend's strange behavior and use of words.

"He's half," Katsuki scoffs, "His father fell in love with his human mother, Rei, and brought her here. He did to her what I did to you." When he sees Izuku's terrified face he quickly adds, "But I'm not going to hurt you. Shouto had to suffer, to go through what he did, so that you and I could meet. Like I said before, it's always been you. There's a reason for everything."

"That's a pretty fucked up way of saying we were meant to be together."

Katsuki doesn't reply to this and just looks away, aggravated with Izuku's attitude.

"Finish shaping the stone." Katsuki demands, smoothing the edges of his own red mineral.

"I want to go home," Izuku whines, "Please."

Katsuki tears his eyes away for a moment and looks at his mate, shaking like a leaf.

"This is home."

Chapter 10

Izuku doesn't like his new home.

After the ceremony Katsuki had lead them deeper into the forest. The rest of the mers remained wide awake, partying to their heart's content at the new addition to their group, but still kept a watchful eye on the freckled mer as he and the blond disappeared into the night. He felt panic course through his body the further they traveled. He had been listening to the loud screeches and hums of the mers but once the darkness took hold of him again it made him shiver. He had no clue as to what surrounded him as he bumped into Katsuki continuously and scraped his arms against nearby jagged rocks. The cold air only made things worse for the poor mer forcing him to lean into Katsuki's hold every once in a while for the warmth and protection he radiated.

"We're here." Katsuki stops in place and lifts a giant rock off of the ground to reveal a hidden entrance, "Welcome home." He smiles at Izuku who just stares at him in confusion.

"What is this?" Izuku asks, earning an annoyed sigh from the blond.

"Don't make me repeat myself. Go on." Katsuki gestures for the other to crawl inside and he does, despite being skeptical of what lay underneath the earth.

The tunnel is large and Izuku finds himself remembering his youth of going down slides at the playground with his friends while his mother watches from a nearby bench, laughing with the neighbors as they fawned over their toddlers. It's dark but when his hands finally escape the wetness of the tunnel, stumbling upon a lower step, he finds himself surprised at the room meant for him and Katsuki. It's twice the size of his bedroom at home and even if he had his legs back he doubts he'd be able to touch the ceiling. Katsuki nudges him all the way inside and moves around to adjust certain features: leaves that form a nest, animal pelts used as blankets, and several stones that just lay in a random pile around the hideout.

"You live here?" Izuku asks, still looking around, impressed.

Katsuki shakes his head and starts carving his nails into the dirt wall, analyzing, "I built it for you and I. I couldn't live here until I brought you back."

"Why?" He was no longer scared or full of hatred. Something about this place intrigued Izuku. He felt like a child again having found an abandoned campsite or haunted house and given the freedom to roam and explore.

"Enough with the questions," Katsuki says, opening his arms and beckoning the teen over, "Come."

Izuku doesn't move. The lack of action isn't because he's still rebelling, he just doesn't find it necessary to move at the moment. Katsuki doesn't grow angry at him for denying him the affection he craves and, instead, chooses to lay on the pelts and shut his eyes. Izuku glances over his shoulder at the entrance and frowns when he sees that, without his knowing, a large rock blocks his only means of escape. Katsuki must have done it while he was in awe. It was only logical that the predator wanted to keep its prey in close range.

"I can't stay here," Izuku says, firmly, "I miss my mother and friends."

"I don't care. This is your home now. You're my mate."

"How can you be so cruel?" He snaps, tossing a pebble at the sleeping behemoth, "You're traditions and way of thinking are barbaric! Something is wrong with you and the rest of your pals."

Katsuki remains comfortable on the blanket and just stares at Izuku, a contest that he knows will end in victory, before deciding to move and getting in Izuku's personal space. He doesn't speak and only looks Izuku over. His small shoulders shake, anticipating violence for crossing a line, and his ears go red with anger. He wants to back down but it's obvious that he wants Katsuki to know he won't make anything easy from here on out.

"I love you so much," Katsuki begins, placing his large and deadly hands on those small and frail shoulders, rubbing them lovingly, "I only ever saw you with your mother once you got older. All those friends you claim to miss were long gone after you became of age. I don't think you realize just how alone you are. It doesn't matter where you live or how many people surround you..."

Izuku whimpers as those long fingers squeeze his shoulders, drawing blood.

"I can offer you so much more here. I can protect and provide for you. I can give you strong and healthy pups-"

"No!" Izuku shrieks and shoves the merman away, shifting to the other side of the room in an attempt to put some distance between the two, "I can't become a parent!"

"Don't shy away from me," Katsuki launches forward and grabs Izuku. He's kicking and screaming at this point and making things more difficult for the black tailed mer.

"I'm too young!"

"You're old enough." Katsuki counters, forcing Izuku to lay on the pelts, fingering the soft and moist opening below his waist.

"Please, stop!"

But it's too late. Again, Izuku stares upward as the feel of Katsuki's skin against his own is all he knows. He wants to turn away, his damn body can't fight off the blond's strength, but he can't move. He's not use to having a tail. He's not accustomed to anything on this island. He doesn't understand how these creatures can be so backwards and hypocritical. Katsuki had admitted that what Shouto's father had done to Rei was wrong but was blind to his own actions. It's as if he didn't care of didn't want to acknowledge what he was doing was unjust.

"Stop fighting me," Katsuki says, pushing his hips forward and sheathing his cock inside the small mer, "Let me take care of you."

"You're raping me, it hurts!"

A look of pure concern crosses Katsuki's features and he looks down at their connected privates. Despite having had Izuku countless times he notes that the blood seeping out of the mer's vaginal area is great. It forms a large puddle, painting the pelts and drying quickly, causing Izuku to shake. Whether it was from shock or something else Katsuki didn't know, he only felt. The walls squeezed him in ways that made his head cloud with excited relief but a part of him stilled to make sure his mate could adjust properly.

"It hurts so much..." Izuku weeps, covering his face with both hands, sobbing.

"It's because you're not-" Katsuki stops himself, "Never mind."

"Because I'm not what?" Izuku asks, still hiding his face.

Katsuki clicks his tongue at the slip up but doesn't give the teen an answer. Instead, he thrusts his hips experimentally and watches Izuku's face only to find that lust is now evident. He leans forward, pushing their privates painfully yet wonderfully close, and hovers over his mate and cages his small body in his arms. He feels as if he might break Izuku but the immense pleasure from having his member drenched and squeezed by the one he loves makes him pick up the pace anyway. Their moans fill the room and the air grows hot from their actions. Their breaths ghost over each other's ears as hands roam and set fire to skin.

It was as if he was hypnotized again, however, he was conscious and able to fully grasp the pleasure he couldn't remember from before. He didn't want this but he did. He felt a wave of want and love envelope him but he knew it must have been another trick the mers used for their prey. He knew it was because of his transformation, something weird was happening to him, that he was so frustrated yet accepting of Katsuki.

"Not inside," Izuku begs, feeling the other's member grow bigger, "Please."

Katsuki grunts, lifting himself up to stare down at tearful green eyes, "You're already carrying."

Izuku closes his eyes and pretends this is a lie.

Chapter 11

The next morning is a sad one.

Heavy rain pours into the den, forcing Katsuki and the mers to leave their homes, prey scurries quickly out of sight and into shelter to avoid the predators that travel from land to the sea, just a few days away from their usual hunting ground. Katsuki keeps an eye on his mate, although it's pointless since Izuku's eyes are dull with surrender, as the others follow him up and down the island like loyal pets.

"How are the stones coming along?"

Katsuki frowns at the brown eyed mermaid who perks up beside him in anticipation. She doesn't notice his foul mood so she doesn't suspect that things aren't going as planned for the newly mated leader, however, when his silence is all she is given she bows her head and falls back in line seeming to take the hint.

"Ochako," Katsuki whispers, loud enough for only her to hear, "Izuku is being difficult. He smells of pregnancy already but I'm worried he might miscarry on purpose."

"You want me to supervise him, then?" She asks, cheeks pink from the previous climb up a small cliff. She catches her breath as the group stops in their tracks, awaiting Katsuki's next orders. He holds a hand up and looks over his shoulder at the crowd of tired and hungry mers.

To Ochako, he nods.

It's painfully obvious that he and Izuku are not going to finish their carvings by the end of the week and Ochako feels her spirit dampen at the observation. Newly mated mermen and mermaids, especially the leader, were suppose to finish carving the stones their most loyal follower hands to them so that they can form a bond. But, with Izuku being difficult, it proved that the two were not as compatible as Katsuki had initially thought.

Izuku snaps out of his daydreams of returning home when the cool and gentle breeze of the ocean waves clashes against his dry and dirt covered skin.

It's vast and much clearer than he remembers and all he wants to do is touch the sand and make a dash for the depths but Katsuki is watching and he knows the blond won't allow him a moment of solitude. The black tailed mer approaches his small mate and wraps his tail around Izuku's entire being, tightly to ensure there was no way to slip out of his touch, and delivers a sweet yet swift peck on the teen's freckled cheek.

"What are we doing here?" Izuku asks.

"Food," Katsuki replies, "The mers will hunt and bring back any aquatic life they can capture. We will have to swim to another island and find shelter there. The soil here is too damp now. The rain is ruining our homes. Perhaps we can go to that island." He nods towards a misty looking island that appears to have mountains reaching all the way into the sky in the distance. Izuku narrows his eyes at the blond and gives him a questioning look.

"You don't like the rain?"

"We love it," Katsuki replies, "But the downpours are growing and they're flooding our homes. The next best thing would be to live in caves. We prefer dark and narrow areas to sleep since we need to keep our tails moist but we shouldn't be exposed to it every waking hour, we are amphibious after all."

Izuku nods, a thought lighting up in his head that he decides to keep to himself, "I want to ask you something."

"Yes?"

"Last night..." He looks away when he sees Katsuki's face brighten at the mention of their alone time together. It's not something he likes to remember and he hopes that, if and when he is able to leave, he'll be able to bury this chapter in his past and keep it hidden in the dark never to resurface. But he can't stop thinking about what Katsuki had almost said before mounting him.

"What were you going to tell me yesterday?" He says, "When I said I was hurting, I mean. You began to tell me why it hurt so much but then you stopped before you could actually tell me anything useful."

"It's your body," The answer comes without any hesitation and Izuku is grateful for that. He doesn't want to keep searching for the mysteries without any clues since it's so frustrating, no one here was dumb enough to go against the blond either. All the mers made sure to keep their lips and secrets sealed tight and watched whatever it was they said, or were absorbed in, under wraps whenever Izuku was around. They only looked at him as if he were still a child being scolded by a superior. He couldn't stand it.

"What about my body?" He asks, "Is it because of this?" He points to his tail and shifts it in the sand for emphasis, "Another one of your tricks or magic spells?"

"Yes."

Whoa, right on the money.

Izuku leans closer to the behemoth and pesters him to continue. It's the first time in a while that he can get an honest answer out of the guy and he doesn't want to let this chance slide. He knew, if he didn't act fast, it was possible the creature would change his mind in a split second if given the chance.

"The longer you stay this way the more your body will grow accustomed to the new changes. It didn't hurt when we mated before because...you were influenced. But you bled because you were born human and not of our kind. It's going to take some adjusting but it should only take a couple of days before the pain and bleeding go away completely."

"That's gross."

Katsuki ignores the venom in Izuku's tone and decides to nuzzle his neck instead, "It's who you are now."

"I don't really feel like myself. Lately, all I want is to end my life."

He doesn't react right away. The force of being slapped so hard doesn't register until he finds himself laying in the sand, his cheek stained a nasty red color. With wide eyes Izuku looks around until emeralds land on Katsuki who is fuming. If looks could kill then Izuku would have had a slow and torturous death. The blond grinds his teeth and his giant hands dig into the sand, knuckles snapping, and ready to attack.

"Don't ever say that," Katsuki shouts, earning distressed looks from the other mers, "Don't ever threaten your life. You are all I have right now. If anyone is going to kill you it will be me." He reaches for the teen's arm and yanks him close, bruising the poor things skin, "You are not allowed to leave me until I say so."

Katsuki shakes him violently until the little mer is trembling from the inside out. He has never seen such hostility in his life before. He's read articles and seen a few explicit videos on the news of murder and crime but he's never witnessed it to this degree. Katsuki looked exactly like the ultimate predator at their wits end. He could explode at any minute if Izuku continued to be careless with his words.

But he couldn't help but to provoke the beast.

"D-do it..." He stutters, "Kill me! I want to die. I'd rather die than be forced to live like this with you and the rest of these hillbilly fucks!"

Several mers turn his way, not understanding the insult, but he doubts they'll have the guts to interfere with anything involving Katsuki since he is more than capable of handling himself. After all, a small teenager like Izuku didn't pose a threat even with his new body. His nails and fangs weren't long enough to do serious damage. A voice echoed in his mind over and over again telling him to attack and survive. Do something to keep Katsuki from hurting him any further. But he couldn't do it. Not because he was frightened, he already felt like vomiting due to the massive size and strength difference, but because without him noticing Katsuki had ripped the fin right off of his tail. He screamed as searing pain etched into his memory and his skin burned as a gush of blood escaped the tip. His beautiful white scales became drenched in crimson and he chipped a few as he rolled around in the sand trying to grasp something for leverage. He needed to get the pain to stop but Katsuki kept him secured on the ground. He couldn't do anything now.

"I'm sorry," Katsuki growled, "But you left me no choice. You keep fighting me and I can't have my mers seeing me be disrespected by my mate constantly."

He leans forward and kisses Izuku's cheek in both aggression and affection, "Don't defy me. Ever."

He wants to spit in his face but his vision begins to blur and he is unable to keep his eyes open for much longer.

Chapter 12

It pains Katsuki to see his mate so miserable and full of hate but he was too defiant and the blond didn't want to constantly worry about waking up alone every morning. He knows Izuku is clever, he's watched him long enough to understand he's more than just a pretty face, which is a benefit for the leader of the group but he couldn't risk losing him just because he wasn't happy being with Katsuki and the others.

When the rain forces the mers to retreat Katsuki knows exactly where to go: the rocky islands. The forest was more lush than their own and with the jagged rocks, cliffs, and caves taking up half of the land it would prove useful in keeping Izuku bound to him.

He hadn't planned on harming the love of his life but when Izuku's furry threatened to separate them Katsuki couldn't contain the emotions that filled him. The thought of being apart from the other blinded him and although he didn't want to take Izuku's tail away he knew he had no choice. Without his fin Izuku would not be able to swim, thus, keeping him trapped on the island or forced to ride on someone's back if he ever attempted privacy. This made Katsuki feel all the more better as he and the mers carried Izuku to the island. The bleeding had stopped a while ago so they were in the clear to make the short distance without any aquatic predators looking for an early morning meal.

Katsuki guided the group onto land and warned them when his scales scraped against the surface that there were sharp pebbles all around them hidden underneath the softness of the sand. Crabs, seals, birds, and all sorts of animals made this horrifyingly uncomfortable island their home and it excited the mers to know that they'd have a bigger variety than before. Izuku groans with every drag of his body against the sand, his hands gripping the pebbles and feeling a malicious nostalgic memory run right around the corner, as the mers journeyed deeper into new territory. The trees were thick at the base but thinner the further they reached the sky. It was only after the moon rose in the sky did Katsuki halt their search and directed everyone to an area, a large hole in a cliff, that satisfied him. The inside was large and it made Izuku gape in awe as he looked at the ceiling, noting the little red eyes peering down at them, shivering when the ventured deeper and deeper until they hit a dead end.

"Alright," Katsuki huffed, "This is big enough and there is plenty of food to last us generations."

The mers cheered, exhausted from the climb and scrapes, rubbing their sore bodies and took to crowding with one another for some rest.

"Izuku, my love," Katsuki cooed, "Would you like to rest as well or browse the island?"

"I'd rather stay." Izuku mumbles, turning away from the blond and huddling in a dark corner. He didn't want to touch the other mers despite how cold he felt. He wanted nothing to do with them despite Ochako always smiling his way and trying her best to be polite. She had nagged him a little too much about the stones he and Katsuki were suppose to finish but he had tossed his 'gift' into the forest long ago. He didn't want to adopt the merman's traditions for fear of losing his humanity. Who knew what else they had in store for him. A shadow engulfs his small body and the sudden warmth radiating behind him is both welcoming and unwanted. Katsuki's large hands take a hold of Izuku's waist and he grooms Izuku's injury with careful affection. He had apologized over and over again to Izuku for harming him but insisted it was the right thing to do. That Izuku would eventually learn his place and accept Katsuki has his one and only. But the behemoth was ignorant and unwilling to learn of the morals humans had. While the monsters saw no wrong in their actions or way of thinking it was the human race that cultivated and prospered. Sure, there were humans who had lived and passed long ago who had twisted thoughts and acted on them without any regard for others but there were more good than evil. Here, however, there was nothing for Izuku to grasp for safety. He was at the mercy of a beast that wanted nothing more than to trap him, surround him, with monsters who wouldn't think twice about slitting another's throat if it meant food, respect, or survival. It wasn't like home.

"You've been quiet since the swim over. Please, let's get some alone time." Katsuki almost begs his mate, wanting to make up for the pain he'd put the other through, and gently plays with untamed curls.

"Okay."

"Thank you."

He's not leaving to get some alone time with this lunatic he's just tired and doesn't have enough energy to fight him or raise his voice. He would very much rather find a hole to crawl in and shrivel away but he knows Katsuki and his loyal mers would make sure that never happened.

* * *

The two don't care that the sky nearly blinds their surroundings. The night air is refreshing and the stars boast a romantic atmosphere, in Katsuki's opinion, giving them an opportunity to make their relationship more intimate. Katsuki decides to give Izuku some space and leaves him in the sand to dive underwater. He investigates the area and sea floor in hopes of bringing something eye catching for Izuku. He heads to the surface at random to keep a watchful eye on Izuku and feel relieved when he finds him laying in the sand with his eyes closed. He was too tired to leave or even think and that makes Katsuki somewhat happy. He dives under again and something shiny beckons the blond further down, reaching forward, and he smirks in absolute joy at his find.

"Izuku!" He barks, swimming so fast that he startles the mer awake, "Do you like this?"

Izuku stares at his opened palm and his eyes feel that familiar hypnotizing pull when he sees the incredibly beautiful shell presented to him. It's tiny and white but there are faint shadows of the color salmon with cracks revealing the backside. It almost looks like a messy painting when he turns it over. It's not the first treasure Izuku has seen but the look on Katsuki's face reminds Izuku of a hopeful child anticipating praise from their parent. So, he nods and forces a smile to his lips and accepts the shell.

"Thanks."

Katsuki feels his heart swell at the small development but doesn't realize that the wheels in Izuku's head are beginning to turn. With a quick peck on the lips Katsuki vanishes from sight leaving a thinking Izuku by himself.

Chapter 13

The answer had been staring him in the face all this time. Izuku watches as Katsuki dives repeatedly under water to fetch him more trinkets. At first, he thought it was somewhat cute that the creature, as deadly as he can be, was actually showing a childish side to himself. He noticed the blond wasn't willing to show others how he felt but let loose when it was just him and Izuku. This kind of behavior only spurred Izuku on with his newly developed plan.

The mers he's been forced to live with seemed to make gift giving a pretty big deal. Admirers gifted their loved ones with pebbles of different shades of color, ceremonies were completed a week after the two betrothed gave each other hand made carvings, and Katsuki *still* went about looking for things to impress Izuku with. Perhaps that's where the magic lay. He just had to understand it better. What if it was a sign of affection? Were mermen and mermaids naturally attached at the hip to their parents and just went along with whatever their traditions set upon them in the future? Or was there no meaning and he was just reading too much into it?

He kept his eyes on the waves when the spiky blond hair he'd grown accustomed made a final appearance. Katsuki was watching him, not fully trusting his bride, and making sure that he stayed put and out of harms way. Izuku couldn't help but think that there was no other way to find out than to ask someone who knew more than him. He would have to pick his friends carefully since every mer on this island was devoted to Katsuki. Perhaps he could wait and see if there were any rebels hidden in the group, although he highly doubted that. His head began to hurt as he went down the list of mers that seemed useful enough to him.

Eijirou...

Denki...

Mina...

Momo...

Even Tsuyu, the little frog that followed the mers wherever they went.

The list went on for what seemed like an eternity until he remembered the bright and happy-go-lucky mermaid that bestowed the red and blue stones: Ochako. She seemed to worry the most about Katsuki, wanting him to be happy no matter what even if he paid her no attention. She was willing to help Izuku knowing that he was important to the head of the group. Maybe he could befriend her and pull a few secrets out of her if he was careful enough.

In all honesty, he didn't want to become familiar with anyone on the island, they were all nice and friendly but he was certain that they were twisted in their own special little way, but he doubted he'd find a way out without acting as if he were fine with the situations he was forced to accept.

"I just need to make sure that they don't suspect anything. I need to keep quiet and let a few days pass before I start to pretend that they're growing on me, especially Katsuki, and then I can be left on my own and wander the island for another means of escape. I can probably find some materials nearby, hopefully as fast as possible, and built myself a raft. No, no, no...I'm dealing with mers and they will definitely know where I am before I even have a chance to set sail. They'll come for me if I don't play the part well. I have to make sure that I have a one hundred percent chance of escape before I act out on any of my ideas. Katsuki will most likely keep me by his side...how long should I wait? I can't stay here for more than a month, they might do something to me like last time. Anything less than a week is too rushed..."

"What are you mumbling about?"

Izuku gasps, jumping at voice in his ear, and turns around to find one of Katsuki's followers looking at him, "S-s-sorry!"

They tilt their head to the side but smile at him nonetheless. Their long red hair and bright blue eyes bore into Izuku as if searching for something he may or may not be hiding.

"What were you saying?" She asks, taking the spot beside the shaken mer, "You were talking so fast I couldn't keep up. Are you still upset that you aren't finished with the ceremony?"

"What?" He thinks back to Ochako and the two stones, "Oh, that? I thought the date expired to complete it."

The mermaid shakes her head and places a hand on his head. He wonders if she's been in the background all this time because he doesn't remember her. Maybe she's a nobody, her hands are unusually large, and no one wants to acknowledge anyone with defects. He's reads articles of animals abandoning their young who are too weak and prove to need more attention and help in order to survive. Perhaps Katsuki is the leader of all the forgotten mers who are alone and unwanted. But then, how come he's only noticing her now?

"It never expires. It just goes onto the following week until both parties have finished." She replies. Then, her eyes shift and something about her is different. Izuku takes notice right away and for some reason he feels like things are finally going his way. She leans back and releases a frustrated sigh before continuing, "The mers are pretty straightforward with the way they think. They don't listen to reason as much as humans do and for some odd reason they believe, with enough time, that their loved ones, whom they've taken away from other lands, are going to just fall in love with them, no questions asked. It appears that you're making things a bit difficult for their leader. I like that."

Izuku just stares at her, "You don't seem to be like the others."

"That's because I'm not." She says, "Izuku Midoriya, do you remember me?"

Chapter 14

Katsuki was ecstatic to know his mate was sitting quietly in the same spot while he went hunting for more gifts. He swam as far as he could, searching blindly for things hidden in the sand, until he was satisfied with his findings. When he went back to the surface his eyes flared with rage at the sight of Itsuka talking to Izuku.

The red head had been with the mers for almost two years and yet she remained defiant. Her mate, Tetsutetsu, was a weak merman but he was very determined to keep her by his side, trapped on the island. Luckily, for the silver haired mer, Itsuka was afraid of the ocean and unable to leave the islands they'd travelled. She was a danger to those who came from her land. She proved, more than once, to be manipulative and often encouraged newbies to escape with her. All her attempts failed, however, and the newly changed mers were given no mercy.

Katsuki feels his blood run cold at the thought of Izuku ending up like all the others who had followed Itsuka's advice. He didn't want that, to lose his mate. Not after all he had done to finally bring them together. He exhales, furious, and slowly approaches the two. Izuku doesn't see the blonde but he notices the way Itsuka's eyes widen in surprise, shrinking back, and scurries to a nearby rock and away from their comfortable conversation. He stares at her in understanding as a large shadow covers his small body. His fingers grab at the sand in boredom as his eyes look around enjoying the space the island has to offer before landing on his tail. He was a goner.

"For you," Katsuki holds a handful of shells in front of the raven haired mermaid. His face remains stoic as he watches Izuku take them with reluctance. He wants Izuku to smile and appreciate what Katsuki had brought him but things don't go according to plan. He doesn't know how to appease the mind of a human but the transformation was suppose to help the two grow closer. With their differences non-existent he assumed Izuku would begin to fall in line with the rest of the mers but there was no improvement.

"Open them," He said, "There might be pearls."

"Thanks."

Katsuki felt his heart lurch in pain. His mate's voice sounded drained of joy. It was obvious he wasn't happy. But the behemoth couldn't give him what he wanted even if it led to his demise. He loved Izuku. He didn't want to go on without him.

"Are you hungry?"

Izuku shakes his head but his stomach betrays him with a loud growl.

"Please, just leave me alone. I'll find something."

Katsuki ignores Izuku, eyeing Itsuka behind her rock and growls at her in warning.

"I'll be right back."

Izuku sighs in frustration but keeps quiet. Everything Katsuki did annoyed the fuck out of him. He did the exact opposite of what Izuku wanted. Itsuka's voice rings in his mind.

"You have more power over him than you realize."

Her words give him hope. He knows exactly what she had meant. He just has to be careful not to let his true emotions take a toll on his future.

Izuku doesn't understand the mers. He thought he had but their new environment had influenced. The caves were huge and pitch black the deeper they ventured but they seemed to take a liking to the craters inside, the cool air, and how any sound echoed loud enough to alert them of any changes. Katsuki took advantage of this, keeping Izuku blocked from the entrance/exit and listening to his movements even while he slumbered beside him.

It was suffocating.

Izuku sighed, searching for that red headed girl, but despite his best efforts he couldn't find what he was looking for. He was completely unaware that she wasn't inside the cave but down by the shore staring at the vastness of her nightmares.

Suddenly, a heavy warmth made itself known above Izuku and he quickly glances upwards to find his captor preparing to cradle the smaller mer. He allowed it, there was no point in fighting the brute off, and didnt bother to snap or demand to be left alone like before. Katsuki wrapped his arms around Izuku's small frame, nipping at his neck affectionately, and thrust his hips forward with a whimper for permission. Izuku didn't respond. He just lay there trapped in his own mind, uncaring of his situation momentarily, as the blonde took his silence as a thumbs up and entered Izuku.

"Ow..." Izuku whined, *"Easy."*

Katsuki kisses his cheek and neck but ignores all other sounds as he begins moving. He groans in satisfaction, his chest tightening with relief that his mate is letting him do as he pleased without lashing out, and tries to bring pleasure to him as well. For a while he didn't see Izuku's expression change. His brows were knit togrther in strained concentration and his lips formed a frown with every thrust.

Katsuki bent forward and licked the tears away the moment he spotted them.

"Why does it hurt you?" He asks, "It should feel good by now. You've been pleased before."

"It's because you disgust me and I wasn't in a right state of mind the other times."

Katsuki hums, somewhat indifferent, to the answer. He didn't have a clue on how to appease the human and it was slowly frustrating him. He wanted their relationship to move forward and feel loved by the other. He didn't know what else he could do to change Izuku's mind.

"I can take care of you here," He continued, " You won't have to lift a finger while I'm around. I'll do everything you ask to make you happy. Just get it through your head that we are meant to be together."

Another wince, Izuku shuts his eyes tightly at the ecstacy that begins to churn in his belly. Something was wrong with him. He could feel it. He liked the heaviness above him, the strong pelvis that slapped hot skin against his own. The thick member that filled him made his senses fuzzy but he held on to whatever reasoning he had and kept focus on the cool sand below. He didn't want to give this beast the satisfaction that what he was doing was actually helping Izuku feel somewhat better. The feeling of being wanted and given such wonderful pleasure helped keep the negative thoughts at bay.

Katsuki panted above him, staring at any change in expression on Izuku's face, and smirked when he felt his mate tighten around him. He slowed his pace and tried to hit the same spot over and over again until Izuku threw his head back and gasped, no longer strong enough to deny the experience.

"Tell me you love me." Katsuki whispered, licking the shell of Izuku's ear, "I want to hear it."

But Izuku turned his head and ignored the mer's request. Katsuki would have cared had it not been a routine for this kind of reaction. He believed if he kept pestering the other that maybe, just maybe, the other would finally give in. He wasn't so hopeful though.

Until Izuku decided to surprise him.

He almost fainted as he watched the green eyed teen's lips part and move to form those beautiful words Katsuki had been craving since day one.

"Fine," Izuku grumbled. He looked into red eyes amd fixed his scowl into a more tender and loving expression. He cupped Katsuki's face and pressed their lips together before speaking, "I love you."

Katsuki's shocked face makes Izuku want to chuckle but he forces himself to remain calm and unmoved by anything even the chill that crawls around their bodies.

"You don't mean it."

"Take what you can get."

"I want to feel it. You didn't even try to convince me."

"Because I don't want you."

"Trying to hurt my feelings?" Katsuki growls, "That's alright. Because I'll *make* you love me. One day."

The confidence in his tone when he says this makes Izuku feel strange. Like something bad was going to happen if he continued to test the waters.

Chapter 15

He doesn't remember much of his childhood aside from the rumors and childish games. Itsuka doesn't look that familiar to him but how would she have known his name if they hadn't met at least once before?

He turns over, freeing himself, and shuffles out of their den. The rain from the previous day made the air and earth damp much to his discomfort and the humidity in the air only made things worse.

"Where are you going?"

Izuku narrows his eyes in frustration as a large warm body scoops his tiny form up. Strong arms cage his shoulders in a desperate lock and the scent of salt water makes Izuku feel somewhat dizzy.

"I was just looking at the view."

Katsuki hums and rests his chin on the mermaid's shoulder. He stares at everything below the cliff they are seated upon and sighs from boredom.

"There's not much to enjoy here. Why don't we go for a swim?"

"You take me to the water everyday. For once I'd like to stay put and be alone."

The two huff at each other. Their relationship continues to be difficult and Izuku has to force his mouth from spilling more curse words and sounds of exhausted frustration. The fighting didn't help, he eyes his lower half and shivers at the dried blood that still remained after Katsuki had ripped his tail fin and decides to rest his head against the blond's chest. He hears the monster's heart beat rapidly, obvious excitement of the unfamiliar affection given by his mate, and is shocked at the calmness it brings him.

How long had he been here?

What were his mother and Shouto doing to find him?

He wondered what to do with Itsuka's plan. Should he risk it and try to escape or would there be more obstacles in his way?

"If you can, sneak away and find me."

How could he do that when Katsuki was so adamant to keep him close?

Maybe there was no way to escape. Itsuku had been captured and already had a few babies following her around when her mate was up and about searching for their next meal. If she tried to leave with a newbie everytime then Izuku wasn't sure he should trust her judgement considering she was still here.

"The sun is rising." Katsuki's deep voice snaps Izuku out of his thoughts and he looks up only to be blinded by the light rising higher and higher.

"It looks nice..." He says quietly, "I'm ready for a swim."

Katsuki doesn't say anything as he unwraps Izuku, gently holding his wrist, and the two make their way to the beach. All the while, Izuku is still deep in thought.

"It wouldn't hurt to try."

Chapter 16

When he awakes Shouto finds himself laying in bed in a hospital room.

He sits up slowly and groans. His head is pounding and if he tries to focus his vision it only makes things worse. He scans the room, its big and the smell of alcohol is not welcomed, and takes out the IV's in his arms. He gets up and makes the mistake of exiting his room.

"Goodness," A small woman with blonde hair tied into a messy bun gasps at Shouto and quickly gestures for him to go back into his room and lay down, "You were black and blue with a few broken ribs when you arrived. You shouldn't be moving."

He takes in every word and suddenly remembers something important.

His expression darkens, "How long have I been here?"

The woman ignores his question and continues to talk but he doesn't listen and walks around her.

"Stop!" She shouts but Shouto is already sprinting through the hallways, growing frustrated at the massive building and it's lack of exits, until he finds a stairway. Quickly, he makes his way to the first floor and escapes before anyone else can recognize him.

I have to find out what happened. Is Izuku alright or did that asshole really take him?

His mind runs a mile a minute with worry and before he knows it he's standing in front Mrs. Midoriya's tiny home. It's quiet amd untouched aside from the newly fixed door with claw marks. He knocks and waits for an answer but no one appears. His worries grow so he goes around the house and peeks inside through the windows. No one is home. The lights are off and the furniture is the same as that night. Picture frames are scattered along the floor with shards of glass decorating the carpet, the wallpaper is tattered, and the furniture looks like it was tossed around randomly.

"Everything is still a mess. Maybe I'm not too late?"

He prays and throws a large rock through the window and helps himself inside. He needs to know how long he's been out so he can save Izuku. If it's been a couple of hours then he won't need to continue this tornado of anxiety and anger but if it's been longer, days or weeks, then he'll have to go back home and rescue Izuku himself.

"Shouto...?"

The dual eyed man freezes and looks around the room. He scans the stairs and shadows but eventually he spots Izuku's mother in a ball on the floor weeping into one of her son's t-shirts.

"He's gone." She weeps, squeezing her eyes shut as a tremor of tears take hold of her.

Shouto grieves with her at the news but forces himself to straighten and ask her what he's been wondering this whole time.

"How long ago?"

She doesn't answer for a while. Shouto's heart breaks at her demeanor, she's already given up. Who could blame her? The poor thing knew Izuku was never coming home ever again.

"My only child...my only son..." She continues sobbing even as Shouto stares at her with impatient eyes.

"I can find him. I know where he is." Shouto confesses, "I don't have time to explain but you need to listen amd telle how long it's been since you came home to all this."

Green eyes look at the man with uncertainty but there's still a hint of hope and she wamts to hold onto that. So, she sits upright, still a mess of tears, and tells him.

Shouto nods and assures her he will bring her son back no matter what.

"It's already too late. Once they have you you're never seen again. Wherever they take you you can't escape."

He pauses, "Well, I have an idea of where they could have gone."

Chapter 17

Author's note:

Pebbles On My Doorstep will be deleted and the story will be rewritten.

See you again,

Soon.

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!